

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Luciano PEDRINI et al

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For: METHOD FOR THE PURIFICATION OF BLOOD BY MEANS OF
HEMODIALYSIS AND/OR HEMOFILTRATION AND APPARATUS
FOR PERFORMING SAID METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-
identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3-5 and 10-13 as follows:

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in
that the infusion rate (Q_{spre}) of the substitution solution
supplied upstream of the hemodialyser and/or the hemofilter (20) is
preferably increased relative to the infusion rate (Q_{spost})
supplied downstream of the hemodialyser and/or the hemofilter with
increasing trans-membrane (TMP) and/or increasing blood density
and/or increasing hematocrit value (HKT) of the blood.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that operational and/or blood parameters are detected and controlled continuously.

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the infusion rates (Q_{spre} , Q_{spos}) of the substitution solutions are chosen such that a substantially stationary limiting membrane is formed on the side of the membrane of the hemodialyser and/or hemofilter (20) facing the chamber through which the blood flows.

10. (Amended) The hemodialysis and/or hemofiltration apparatus according to claim 8, characterized in that the measuring devices comprise sensors (50) arranged in the extra-corporeal circuit (10) upstream and/or downstream of the hemodialyser and/or hemofilter (20) for the detection of the hematocrit value (HKT) of the blood.

11. (Amended) The hemodialysis and/or hemofiltration apparatus according to claim 8, characterized in that the measuring devices comprise sensors arranged in the extra-corporeal circuit (10) upstream and/or downstream of the hemodialyser and/or hemofilter (20) for the detection of the blood density.

12. (Amended) The hemodialysis and/or hemofiltration apparatus according to claim 7 characterized in that the means for controlling the at least one of the infusion rates (Q_{spre} , $Q_{s\text{post}}$) are pumps (13,15) in the supply lines (12,14).

13. (Amended) The hemodialysis and/or hemofiltration apparatus according to claim 7 characterized in that the means for controlling the at least one of the infusion rates (Q_{spre} , $Q_{s\text{post}}$) are valves in the supply lines (12,14).

REMARKS

The foregoing Preliminary Amendment is requested in order to delete the multiple dependent claims and avoid paying the multiple dependent claims fee.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the infusion rate (Q_{spre}) of the substitution solution supplied upstream of the hemodialyser and/or the hemofilter (20) is preferably increased relative to the infusion rate (Q_{spost}) supplied downstream of the hemodialyser and/or the hemofilter with increasing trans-membrane (TMP) and/or increasing blood density and/or increasing hematocrit value (HKT) of the blood.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 one or several of claims 1 through 3, characterized in that operational and/or blood parameters are detected and controlled continuously.

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 one or several of claims 1 through 4, characterized in that the infusion rates (Q_{spre} , Q_{spost}) of the substitution solutions are chosen such that a substantially stationary limiting membrane is formed on the side of the membrane of the hemodialyser and/or hemofilter (20) facing the chamber through which the blood flows.

10. (Amended) The hemodialysis and/or hemofiltration apparatus according to claim 8 or 9, characterized in that the measuring devices comprise sensors (50) arranged in the extra-corporeal circuit (10) upstream and/or downstream of the hemodialyser and/or hemofilter (20) for the detection of the hematocrit value (HKT) of the blood.

11. (Amended) The hemodialysis and/or hemofiltration apparatus according to claim 8 ~~one of claims 8 to 10~~, characterized in that the measuring devices comprise sensors arranged in the extra-corporeal circuit (10) upstream and/or downstream of the hemodialyser and/or hemofilter (20) for the detection of the blood density.

12. (Amended) The hemodialysis and/or hemofiltration apparatus according to claim 7 ~~one of claims 7 to 11~~ characterized in that the means for controlling the at least one of the infusion rates (Q_{spre} , Q_{spost}) are pumps (13,15) in the supply lines (12,14).

13. (Amended) The hemodialysis and/or hemofiltration apparatus according to claim 7 ~~one of claims 7 to 12~~ characterized in that the means for controlling the at least one of the infusion rates (Q_{spre} , Q_{spost}) are valves in the supply lines (12,14).